

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	COUNCIL	4 DECEMBER 2017	7

NOTICE OF MOTION – FOOTBALL IN THE UK

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

Notice of motion is a procedure that allows members of the council to ask the council to discuss any matter for which the Council has a responsibility or which affects the Fylde area. Any member of the council can give written notice to the Director of Resources of a motion that they wish to move. The Director will publish the motion on the council's website and arrange for it to be placed on the agenda of the next available ordinary council meeting. The motion will be debated at council subject to it being moved and seconded.

RECOMMENDATION

To consider the Notice of Motion received on 14 November 2017.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

There have been no previous decisions on this item.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	√
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	√
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	√
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	√
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	√

The Motion

1. The following Notice of Motion has been received:

“English football, particularly at the highest level, enjoys unparalleled popularity with record attendances (31 million last year) creating economic stability to both the club being supported and the local businesses and general community.

Clubs such as Leyton Orient, Leeds, Blackburn Rovers and the town of Blackpool’s own club have received high levels of media publicity for the wrong reasons. Disputes between fans and owners, for whatever causes, fail to be rectified or addressed by the Football Association who have delegated too much of its powers and can no longer perform a proper governing role. Ill-discipline on the pitch is stringently marshalled by the FA, yet bad governance off it has been delegated to the clubs themselves to referee.

Under the banner ‘Fans Not Numbers’ business entrepreneur Jamie Fuller the chairman of sports clothing manufacturer ‘Skins’ together with ‘Supporters Direct’ the national supporters association with over 400,000 members, are currently lobbying local politicians and national government to set up a multi-party supported Government appointed Independent Regulatory Body. A body that can not only set, but crucially, can enforce off-pitch regulations that include the powers to sanction clubs who are non-compliant. An Independent Regulatory Body could ensure that no clubs are promoted despite breaching rules, reliant on funding from unnamed entities or rendered homeless.

The funding for the Independent Body could be met with a small percentage levy on commercial rights income generated by the leagues.

As Blackpool has obvious and evident issues between its football club and a huge majority of local fans including many who live in Fylde, this Council has a duty and an economical interest to promote change to the regulatory system to ensure that energy is spent on building not destroying supporter and community relations.

The United Kingdom is only one of five countries in the world that do not have an Independent Regulatory Body.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister Mrs. Theresa May and the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Karen Bradley MP confirming the Council’s support of the concept to appoint a Government Independent Regulatory Body for football in the UK.

That the formation of the body should be supported by all political parties to address conflicts between owners and fans and to formulate a blueprint for how football governance should work and the changes to bring it about to prevent future conflicts that result in negative community and damaging economic downturn to those areas affected.”

The Notice of Motion has been duly proposed by Councillor Richard Redcliffe.

Standing Orders

2. Part 4 (Rules of Procedure), Standing Order 12 (Motions) of the council Constitution details the procedural requirements of handling a Notice of Motion.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	None arising directly from this report.
Legal	None arising directly from this report.
Community Safety	None arising directly from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising directly from this report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising directly from this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising directly from this report.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Tracy Morrison	tracy.morrison@fylde.gov.uk Tel 01253 658521	21 November 2017

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Notification from Councillor Redcliffe	14 November 2017	https://fylde.cmis.uk.com/fylde/DocumentsandInformation.aspx
Council Constitution		https://fylde.cmis.uk.com/fylde/DocumentsandInformation.aspx